



April 11, 2018

Governance and Finance Committee
Senator Mike McGuire (Chair)
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 946 (Lara) Sidewalk Vending - OPPOSE

Dear Senator McGuire,

The Downtown Center Business Improvement District (DCBID), the largest BID in Los Angeles, has played a pivotal role in the revitalization of Downtown Los Angeles. The DCBID opposes Senate Bill 946 which, while well-intended, takes away the ability of local government to control behavior and activity on city streets and other public places.

Unregulated street vending can have several unintended consequences that profoundly impact public health and safety and the ability of small businesses to also thrive.

The State Legislature has supported the work of Business Improvement Districts throughout the State. Property owners pay assessments to provide much needed clean and safe services. Will street vendors pay BIDs for the additional services that will be needed to clean up the areas where they are stationed? Will they provide some compensation to BIDs or the affected property owner if a customer of a vendor trips and falls due to the negligence of the vendor? Should a vendor selling ice cream be allowed to set up in front of a mom and pop small business that sells ice cream and that pays rent, employs people and pays taxes?

What if several vendors set up on a sidewalk and block ingress and egress? How will these vendors and their customers have access to restrooms, waste disposal and sufficient facilities necessary to ensure safe food handling?

These are issues that need to be addressed if there is going to be a good quality of life for all and the ability of small businesses to also thrive.

Over the past several years, we have joined a broad coalition of organizations working with the Los Angeles City Council to create a sidewalk vending program that balances the needs of brick-and-mortar establishments with the needs of vendors. We believe a sidewalk vending program in Los Angeles must include density limitations, and property or business owner consent.

Additionally, in order to have a thriving vending program there must be enforcement. This is the only way to create a level playing field for vendors who are good operators. SB 946 provides no resources to cities to support enforcement while limiting local control to create an effective



vending program designed for their city. SB 946 does not provide a balanced approach to this complicated issue.

We urge the committee to oppose SB 946.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Schatz".

Carol Schatz
President & CEO

cc: Senator Janet Nguyen (Vice Chair)
Senator Jim Beall
Senator Ed Hernandez
Senator Robert M. Hertzberg
Senator Ricardo Lara
Senator John M. W. Moorlach